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# FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

February 1, 1946

No. 148

TO CATTLE PRODUCERS. . . . On January 31st, USDA Radio Service sent to radio farm directors in the main cattle-producing States the following wire for transmission to farmers:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REQUESTS YOU URGE FARMERS WITH BEEF CATTLE READY FOR MARKET TO SEND THEM IN AS SOON AS READY, FOR THREE MAIN REASONS. FIRST, SHORTAGE OF FEED WHICH IS AGGRAVATED BY HOLDING BACK CATTLE: SECOND, NEED TO GET ALL PACKING PLANTS IN FULL OPERATION: THIRD, PUBLIC DEMAND FOR MEAT. SECRETARY ANDERSON POINTS OUT THAT HE KNOW OF NO PLAN TO RAISE PRICE CEILINGS ON BEEF CATTLE: DELAY IN MARKETING NOW WILL MEAN POSSIBLE GLUT AND LOWER PRICES ON CATTLE LATER. FARMERS SHOULD CONTACT MARKET TO LEARN WHETHER ANIMALS CAN BE HANDLED.

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COTTON PROGRAM NEWS. . . . Southern newspapers of over 50,000 circulation will soon receive a letter from M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, explaining the nature of the intensified, cooperative cotton-education program and pointing to the State agricultural extension director as leader of the program in each State. Wholehearted cooperation is the theme of replies being received from presidents of key industry and farm groups concerned with cotton to whom Mr. Wilson wrote recently explaining the cotton program.

With the exception of the handbook, "Facts About Cotton and Southern Farming," the kit of materials to be used in this program, previously described in the Calendar, will be mailed to the States this week. The handbook will be sent out within a few weeks.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . January 24, the House Rules Committee cleared the school lunch bill; the House passed the independent offices appropriation bill. January 25, the House received the President's supplemental appropriation estimate of \$2,100,000 for this Department's flood control work; January 29, the Senate Commerce Committee reported a bill establishing a bureau of scientific research; January 30, the House passed an appropriations rescission bill which is the same as the one that was recently vetoed except for the U.S.E.S. item; Senate committees reported the inter-American coffee and international sugar protocols.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON will speak February 4 in Washington at a dinner meeting of the National Association of Commodity Exchanges and Allied Trades, Inc. He will discuss agricultural markets and marketing. On February 5, he will speak at a joint luncheon meeting of the National-American Wholesale Grocers' association and the National Cannery Association at Atlantic City. Both groups will be in annual conventions.

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\* Last week's Calendar dated January 25 was in reality No. 147, although it was marked No. 146.



EXTENSION REPORT. . . . The "Report of Committee on the Scope of Extension's Educational Responsibility" recently issued contains an appraisal by the Federal office of the Cooperative Extension Service of its educational efforts to date in relation to its total field of responsibilities. In it the committee recommends that a similar self-appraisal be made by each State extension service. Such summing up is considered particularly desirable because "the Extension Service has reached a transition period in its development." Contents of this 13-page report, single copies of which may be obtained from Extension Service, include Extension's historical background and discussion of its 9 major fields of educational responsibility.

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HAVE YOU SEEN JOE?, Joe Beaver? He is the hero of a weekly comic which Forest Service is now distributing to 25 newspapers and magazines in this country, Canada, and Hawaii. The purpose of the cartoon is to foster conservation of our forest resources and the benefits of good forest practices. Ed Nofziger, nationally known cartoonist who originated this cartoon, will produce the series indefinitely and free of charge as a public service. Forest Service plans to circulate the cartoon widely. More about "Joe Beaver" in press release No. 169.

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PRICE SUPPORTS. . . . The statement on price supports by Solicitor Robt. H. Shields before a meeting of USDA regional attorneys at Denver, August 16, 1944, has been revised to include statutory changes through January 1, 1946. Interested agencies of the Department have received notification copies of the talk which is entitled "Federal Statutory Provisions Relating to Price Support for Agricultural Commodities." Single copies of this 39-page, processed piece may be obtained from the Office of the Solicitor.

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PMA INFORMATION CHIEFS. . . . PMA's three deputy directors of information assisting James B. Hasselman, Director, are: P. H. DeVries, BAE's former information chief, who will be in charge of press, publications, and editorial work of PMA; W. H. Lamphere, former AAA information chief, in charge of field information; and E. J. Rowell, former OMS information head, in charge of special programs and campaigns.

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DROP IN MEAT INSPECTED. . . . Only 315 million pounds of meat received Federal Meat Inspection during the two weeks ending January 26. This compares with 677 million pounds inspected last year in the same period. Here is the break-down by kinds of meat: beef, 142 million pounds this year--285 million, last year; veal, 7 and 26; lamb and mutton, 12 and 43; and pork, 154 and 323 million pounds respectively.

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ONIONS SCARCE. . . . Growers and dealers at main production centers reported only 5.7 million 50-pound sacks of onions on hand as of January 1. This is the lowest holding of onion stocks reported since 1932. The 1945 crop was estimated at 27.3 million sacks but consumers bought more onions than usual and the late summer crop was small.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE WHEAT SITUATION. . . . Some background facts behind the Department's plea that farmers move more wheat to market now are summarized as follows: Only about half the wheat intended for export during the first half of 1946 has been exported. . . it is badly needed in wartorn countries because of a drought in many parts of Europe and North Africa, various effects of the war, and shortages of other foods and feedstuffs. . . more than one-half of the estimated January 1 wheat stock of 690 million bushels is still on farms, mostly in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Pacific Northwest. . . it is up to Canada and the United States to supply most of the wheat to foreign countries in the critical months ahead as the two other main wheat-exporting countries, Argentina and Australia, had short crops last year because of drought.

It is to the farmer's advantage to sell wheat now because: The market is good and selling now may prevent excess supplies from accumulating later. . . if our export program is carried out as planned, our domestic wheat carryover will not be more than 150 million bushels next July 1. . . above-average yields are the prospects for 1946. . . demand and Government purchases have kept prices up during the war. . . in prewar years, loans and marketing quotas were resorted to in an effort to insure fair returns to wheat farmers. . . flour subsidy payments to United States millers since December 1943 total \$243,522,146. . . this subsidy will be terminated on March 1 followed by a supplemental program.

Specifically, PMA is asking this of farmers: "Keep in touch with your local elevator, and move the grain as soon as the local transportation situation permits. Your wheat is needed even though your local elevator may be temporarily blocked." The Department of Agriculture is cooperating with other Government agencies and the Association of American Railroads to make more cars available for the movement of grain. Farmers are also being asked to use any wheat fed to livestock as efficiently as possible.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . Allotment regulations, dark air-cured, fire-cured tobacco, 1946-47 marketing year--171; Argentina harvests small flaxseed crop--173; Secretary Anderson's telegram to union heads (CIO and AFL)--176; to packing house firms--177; USDA to buy dried eggs for export--184; Stocks of grain, Jan. 1, 1946--194; USDA purchases 61,000 tons of old crop "Puerto Rican" sugar--196; Ernest Kelly retires after 35 years as dairy scientist--201; Industry men to assist in protein meal order compliance--202; USDA moves to meet wheat export goal--203; No corn marketing quotas in 1946-47--211; C. W. Kitchen, Assistant Administrator of PMA and former Director of OMS, resigns after 34 years' service in USDA--217.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Ceiling prices for frozen fruits, berries, vegetables announced--OPA-6205; Canned carrots and carrot juice exempted from price control--OPA-6221; Price Administrator Bowles' statement on continuation of food subsidies--OPA-6224; Average mill price increase of \$3.25 per thousand board feet on southern pine lumber granted to stimulate production of lumber critically needed for housing construction--OSA-14.

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RADIO - FEBRUARY 9. . . . CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15 p.m., EST. "Better Health for Rural America." A dramatized program.

NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00 p.m., EST. Summary of news developments in the USDA, for farmers: five-minute feature entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30 p.m., EST. Features USDA weekly report for farmers called "The Business Side of Farming."

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